[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT BY A MEMBER MOVING A CUT MOTION FOR HIS ABSENCE AT THE TIME OF VOTING.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" Mr. President, Sir, my attention has been drawn to the observations that fell from the Chair the other day in connexion with my motion to reduce the Demand for Legislative Bodies by Rs. 100 on the afternoon of the 14th instant. I hasten to assure you, Sir, that nothing was farther from my mind than to show any discourtesy to this Honourable House or to the Leader thereof, and least of all to the Chair. You are well aware, Sir, that myself and persons similarly situated have, besides discharging the responsibility, as public men, of helping the Government in carrying on the administration of the country, also to discharge the onerous duties, as professional men, of helping the courts of law in the administration of Justice. If occasionally, Sir, I am called away from one sphere of activity to another, I need hardly assure you that it is in spite of my best endeavour to avoid such absence, rather than any intention on my part to be so absent; and it is not without much regret and anxiety that I go away on such occasions. I am indeed sorry, Sir, for my unavoidable absence from the House on the occasion in question; and I am also sorry that owing to my absence, I could not express my regret on an earlier occasion than this."

III.—MOTION UNDER RULE 24-A OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES—IMPOSITION OF EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR AND MATCHES.

* Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Mr. President, I move—

'*that this Council is of opinion that the imposition of an excise duty on sugar and matches is undesirable and that it is prejudicial to the interests of this Province.*'

I must thank you, Mr. President, and the Member of Government in charge of this portfolio, for having given the House an opportunity of discussing this motion.

" Hon. Members may remember that similar motions have been passed in some of the Provincial Legislative Councils and this step is being taken by Members of the Provincial Legislative Councils in order to bring home to the representatives of the Provinces on the Assembly, the general feeling in the country about the imposition of this excise duty especially on sugar. The Sugar Committee, which was presided over by Sir Reginald McKenna, reported as far back as 1920, but action with regard to that report was only taken about the year 1928 or 1929. Even then the question of tariffs or protection was not considered and the question of protection was specially referred to the Tariff Board in the year 1930. They reported on the 29th of January 1931. They say in their report considering the problem of sugarcane in India—

'It may be stated at the outset that the expansion of the sugar industry in India is an indispensable adjunct to agricultural development. At all times, cane cultivation occupies a prominent position in the agricultural economy of